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JOHN C. BURMAHLN, *Secretary*

S. DAVID FREEMAN, *General Manager*

April 24, 2000

USDA-Forest Service
Contents Analysis Enterprise Team
Attention UFP, Building. 2, Suite 295
550 Amelia Earhart Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**Unified Federal Policy for
Watershed Management on Federal Lands**

This letter comments on the proposed Unified Federal Policy for Watershed Management on Federal Lands (UFP). The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Department) fully supports the UFP. The approach will have a positive effect on improving watershed conditions and, thus, water quality. As a water utility, this is of utmost importance, especially since our watershed lands are downslope and downstream of federal lands.

Our Department is currently participating in collaborative approaches to watershed management in the Eastern Sierra. We welcome a commitment by federal agencies to collaborate and improve watershed management. The efforts of our Department to improve watershed conditions on our lands are highly dependent on management of federal lands that are located upstream. Working together, we can ensure our watersheds' health starting at the headwaters.

Proactive management of watersheds should focus on sound land and water management practices. This approach is proven and the most effective way to improving our aquatic resources. It leads to naturally sustainable ecosystems that result in healthy watersheds, thus reducing water treatment costs; minimizing sediment inputs into our aqueduct facilities; and keeping plant, wildlife, and aquatic resources in good condition.

Again, we feel the UFP can only have a positive effect on watershed conditions and hope the Department of Agriculture endorses it fully.

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. ERB
Director of Water Resources

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112

Department of Water and Power



the City of Los Angeles

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